
Update 8 May

1 message

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To: All Personnel <allpersonnel@waimairi.school.nz>, allwhanau@waimairi.school.nz

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Kia ora Waimairi whānau.

Yesterday the Prime Minister outlined these key messages for reopening schools when we get to Level 2.

"Early learning services, schools and tertiary education facilities are all open."

"Schools and early learning services are safe environments for children, young people and staff. Additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing."

"Schools and early learning services will engage with parents about children returning at Alert level 2."

"Distance learning is available for those unable to attend school, for example who are self-isolating."

"If a school has a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, they must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours, to allow contact tracing, and then potentially for a further 14 days."

"We also agreed that when we make the decision to move levels, schools won't open midweek – whenever the decision is made – they will open at the beginning of the following week. So if we make a decision to shift to Alert Level 2 next week, schools and early learning centres will have ten days from now to prepare."

"The two key public health principles we're talking to the sector about are one: to reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place and two, to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected."

So keeping kids at home if they're sick, and good hygiene such as hand washing are so important."

"Where possible physical distancing is a good precaution. We do, however, know it is near impossible in an early learning environment and challenging in schools. So good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here."

"In schools, physical distancing means children, young people and staff maintaining enough distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. And maintaining good hygiene practices, and regular cleaning. As is regular cleaning of equipment."

"And all schools and early learning services will collect information about who's there, so Public Health can contact people quickly if they need to."

"We know parents will have lots of questions, but please give schools and early learning centres time to plan and contact you."

In light of this, here is our updated Waimairi communication plan for you:

*Putting Waimairi School's Level 2 Health and Safety Plan together - Monday and Tuesday (11/12 May).

*Cabinet decides on possible Level change - Monday.

*Waimairi School Level 2 Health and Safety Plan outlined to parents and whānau - Wednesday.

*Waimairi staff setting up classrooms and school facilities to comply with our Level 2 plan - Thursday - Friday.

*POSSIBLE Level 2 opening - Monday 18 May.

Looking forward to giving you deeper details on Wednesday next week.

Have a great weekend.

Ngā mihi
Mike

Nāhaku noa, nā

Mike Anderson

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